

Route 1 toll plaza now open

State Route One, Delaware's new north-south corridor between the C&D Canal and Odessa, opened to toll collection Nov. 17.

Gov. Carper, Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, and many other state and local elected officials joined Secretary of Transportation Anne P. Canby and DelDOT staff at an 11 a.m. ceremony to mark the occasion.

This newest section of the State Route One (SR-1) limited access toll road is the second of three roadway phases to be completed. Construction began in September of 1996 on the \$98 million eight and one half-mile stretch of roadway which includes a new state-of-the-art 14 lane toll plaza at Biddles Corner.

The most notable feature of the toll plaza are four highway-speed E-ZPass only lanes that allow vehicles to pass through at the posted speed limit without having to slow down. The toll plaza also features 10 regular toll booths, five in each direction, built in the traditional fashion. The Biddles Corner Toll Plaza is the first toll facility on the East Coast of the United States to have highway-speed electronic toll collec-

tion capability.

Gov. Carper said, "It is a great day for the residents of Delaware and for all motorists who visit the First State for business or recreation. State Route One serves as a vital link connecting all parts of the state. The road's completion allows business, tourists and residents to have more direct access to beach resort points to the south and the metropolitan areas to the north."

Secretary Canby added, "This is a proud day for the Department of Transportation. We again celebrate a tremendous feat of construction and engineering and have delivered "Progress as Promised." The highway-speed E-ZPass lanes, with their associated discounts over cash prices, will be a great incentive for customers to utilize the electronic toll collection system."

After the opening ceremony, and speeches by the Governor and others, officials joined in a parade of antique cars through the highway-speed E-ZPass only lanes. The Delaware State University's "Approaching Storm" Marching Band, provided music for the festivities.